

US History Extended Response Practice Prompt

2015 EOC US HISTORY PRACTICE TEST / SECTION 2 / 1 OF 1

The excerpts below address the presidential election of 2000, the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, and the Supreme Court decision in *Bush v. Gore*. The table below contains the 2000 presidential election results.

Explain the Supreme Court decision that decided the 2000 election.

- Why did the case revolve around voting rights and the Equal Protection clause?
- How did the decision impact future elections?
- Use evidence from these sources and your content knowledge to support your answer.

Florida also discounted 175,000 improperly cast ballots, which came disproportionately from African-American districts. Outdated equipment and poorly designed ballots were faulted. Some counties in Florida used new optical-scan machines, while others used decades-old punch cards, lever machines, and paper ballots. Confusing "butterfly" or "caterpillar" ballots—where names of candidates were listed on multiple pages—also made it hard for people to be sure they had voted for the candidate of their choice. Some ballots were disqualified for "overvotes," selecting too many candidates, while others had incomplete punches such as dimples and "hanging chads." The automatic recount did not re-evaluate the discounted ballots, and on November 26, the Florida Secretary of State certified that Bush had won the state by 537 votes. Bush accepted the results and appointed a transition team. Gore demanded a hand count. The election was not yet over.

Working on a laptop computer out of the Vice President's mansion, Gore gathered the latest political reports and plotted his legal and political strategy. *Gore v. Harris* went to the Florida State Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously in Gore's favor for a full statewide review of all the "undercounted" ballots. Bush's attorneys appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which on December 12, ruled 5 to 4, in *Bush v. Gore*, that insufficient time remained to conduct a recount that would not violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

Source: Public Domain/U.S. Senate

14th Amendment

Section 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States, and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within the jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws

Source: Public Domain/U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Having once granted the right to vote on equal terms, the state may not, by later arbitrary and disparate treatment, value one person's vote over another.

Source: Public Domain/U.S. House of Representatives

2000 Electoral Votes

	George W. Bush Republican	Al Gore Jr. Democrat
Popular vote	50,456,062	50,996,582
Electoral vote	271	266
Florida popular vote	2,912,790	2,912,253
Florida electoral votes	25	0

Source: Public Domain/U.S. National Archives and Records Administration